

### REMARKS

This Response addresses the issues outstanding in the Office Action dated February 4, 2008. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The objections to the specification and Claim 3 are unwarranted and should be withdrawn. Paragraph [0009] of the specification<sup>1</sup> correctly describes that "a size of the transistor Q2 is set n times as large as a size of transistor Q1" and that "an emitter current density of the transistor Q1 is set to a value which is n times as large as an emitter current density of the transistor Q2" (emphasis added). Moreover, as to Claim 3, it is apparent that the first transistor is correctly recited as having the larger emitter area, since, as set forth in independent Claim 1, the first transistor has a smaller current density than the second transistor. The claimed second transistor is thus exemplified by Q1, whereas the claimed first transistor is exemplified by Q2. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5-18 are pending, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Applicants acknowledge, with

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants presume that the Office Action intended to refer to paragraph [0009] rather than paragraph [0010].

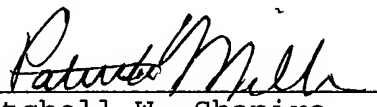
appreciation, the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 14.

As to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants respectfully note that the cited patent application publication to Ito et al. does not constitute prior art to the instant application. Ito et al. is effective as of its filing date, March 28, 2006, whereas the present application has an underlying international filing date of December 2, 2004. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10578) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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